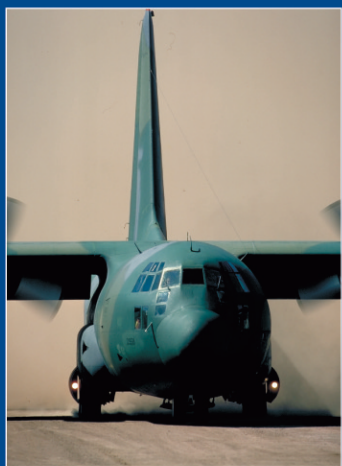


# AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Illinois Department of Military Affairs - Illinois Army & Air National Guard



A C-130 taxis down the runway on another mission. The 182nd Airlift Wing supports a variety of airlift missions including personnel and equipment airlift and delivery of humanitarian relief and education supplies to nations like Romania and Haiti.

The Illinois Air National Guard is part of the air reserve component and supports the United States Air Force in meeting its worldwide commitments and responsibilities. The structure of the Illinois Air National Guard is made up of more than 3,300 personnel comprising three wings, a headquarters unit and five smaller mission-separated units. Each unit has a distinctive mission and is a part of today's expeditionary Air Force. The units and locations are:

- ▶ 126th Air Refueling Wing, Scott AFB, Belleville
- ▶ 182nd Airlift Wing, Peoria
- ▶ 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield
- ▶ The Air National Guard Headquarters is based in Springfield at Camp Lincoln.

Federal funding for the three wings exceeds \$80 million annually.



## 182nd Airlift Wing

Since its beginning in 1947, the unit has been based at the Greater Peoria Regional Airport. With its complement of C-130H Hercules aircraft, the 182nd is responsible for theater or tactical airlift, delivering equipment and personnel throughout the world. Because of the unit's airlift mission, the 182nd is routinely called upon to provide airlift to the Air Force and other military services. It has deployed to almost every location around the globe and supports United Nations peacekeeping efforts.



## 183rd Fighter Wing

From the unit's beginning in 1948, the 183rd has operated from Capital Airport, Springfield. The Wing's mission is to maintain a ready force of F-16C aircraft, providing equipment and highly-trained personnel in support of air defense, air interdiction, and suppression of enemy forces. Considered one of the best fighter units in the United States, it has been called upon to deploy its aircraft and personnel throughout the world.

The unit's service has taken it to various European countries and Southwest Asia as part of Operation Southern Watch, Poland, Thailand, and various Air Force Bases in the United States for training.



A KC-135E Stratotanker acts as a "gas station in the sky" to refuel various aircraft. This is one of the main missions of the 126th Air Refueling Wing.



## 126th Air Refueling Wing

The 126th primary mission is in-flight air refueling utilizing KC-135E Stratotanker aircraft. Unit secondary missions include transportation of personnel and equipment.

The unit is the oldest in the Illinois Air National Guard. It has a distinguished history in every major conflict and was one of the first Air National Guard units called to active duty in the Gulf War.

The 126th is extremely busy with global commitments on a daily basis.



A row of F-16 Fighting Falcons ready for take-off. The Springfield-based 183rd Fighter Wing has flown numerous missions in Southwest Asia in support of military operations in that region.